INSIST ON

Knowing where your Senators in Congress stand on Labor's amendments to the anti-trust laws. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 26, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking coal miners of Colorado.

VOL. 4. NO. 20 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1914. WHOLE NO. 176

REFUSES TO SPEAK FOR PAY

Philadelphia, Aug. 15.—While personally pledging his best efforts to the committee having in charge the "union forward" movement, President Gompers has declined to make an address to raise funds to finance the movement. President Gompers declined to speak at the gathering where an admission fee is charged. He declared the gospel of trades unionism is free and without price and that his preaching of it would be done only under circumstances that would make it free to all. The A. F. of L. executive made an effective plea for unity among trade unionists. "Without unity," he declared, "all your efforts to secure your rights are defeated before you start. Trade unionism should alone be our slogan. We should eliminate every cult and lem from our ranks and with unity as our watchword present a solid front in the great cause that has for its aim the welfare and advancement of humanity.

"While listening to your deliberations, I am impressed with the fact that some of you are not working for labor alone.

"You charge each other with more offenses than are charged against you by special privilege, which long ago exploited you for its own benefit. Each of you claims your position to be correct and insist that the other has some sinister, selfish interest he wishes to advance. A division on both your lines, and your constant attempt to belittle each other and save your energy to promote the welfare of the greater cause, labor, for the advance and welfare of mankind.

"If labor acts as a unit there is no limit to what it can accomplish in Philadelphia. Divided, it is defeated before it begins.

"Trade unionism and trades unionism only must be our slogan. We must eliminate from our ranks all effort of individuals to advance their pet hobbies, and battle under the banner of unity.

"To this we look and in this we only can the great cause of organized labor, which has helped the individual to a more equitable distribution of the wealth he has produced, and for which thousands of men have consecrated their lives for the advancement of humanity, be brought to a successful culmination."

ROUNDLY CONDEMNED.

Trinidad, Aug. 15.—Stinging resolutions against the state militia and its commissions by the latter's political associates featured the proceedings of the Las Animas democratic county convention, which declared:

"We heartily condemn the commissions for the ineffient, undemocratic and incompetent manner in which he has handled the strike situation in Southern Colorado.

"We condemn Gen. Chase, of the Colorado National Guard, as the hireling and servient tool of the great coal companies of Southern Colorado, and hold him and his thugs and hirelings, employes of the coal companies, which he incorporated in Company A, of the Colorado National Guard, personally responsible for the murder of the women and children of Ludlow, and condemn the Colorado Guard of Colorado and every officer who participated therein and feel that they are largely responsible for the awful slaughter and the conditions that led up to it."

RAISE WAGES.

Rogersville, Tenn., Aug. 15.—President Bo[illegible] of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, reports the following gains by that organization within the past ten days:

Pressmen and assistants at Trenton, N. J., have signed contract with employers; increases approximating 10 per cent secured. Every employer signed contract except one, whom a strike, involving one member of the union, is now on.

Pressmen and assistants of Meriden, Conn., have signed contract with the newspaper publishers' association, every commercial employer with an eight per cent increase. Adjustment brought about without strike or serious contention.

At Milwaukee the pressmen and assistants closed a three-years' contract with the employers for a $1 per week increase for each year of the three-year period. About 400 men are affected by the increase.

TEXTILE WORKERS TRIUMPH.

Philadelphia, Aug. 15.—"If the union is a good thing for you, it probably will be for me, too. You have lost a lot of money and so have we. Let us get together now," declared the manager of the, firm of Dobson & Co., in his statement that the company had yielded to the demands of textile workers, who went on strike nearly four months ago because of wage reductions. The workers were without organization when they struck, but were quickly chartered by the United Textile Workers union, which assisted them in their contest. Under the agreement the management abandons its former hostile attitude toward organization and recognizes the union. Wages will be increased all along the line and better sanitary conditions are provided for. The victory is complete.

MICHIGAN WORKERS TO MEET.

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 15.—By a referendum vote of the unions in this state, Lansing has been selected as the convention city for the Michigan State Federation of Labor, which will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary at the time. The convention dates are September 12 to 13, inclusive.

PASS EARLY CLOSING LAW.

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 15.—The city council has passed an early closing law, despite opposition of merchants who insist "it takes away a man's privileges." Provision for amendments will be given by those who are against the proposal.

RECREATION PLAN LAUNCHED.

San Francisco, Aug. 15.—The Board of Education has created a new department which will direct public lectures, social center activities and athletics. Edward Burton de Groot, of Chicago, is in charge of the new work.

MISSOURI WORKERS TO MEET.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 15.—Secretary John T. Smith of the Missouri State Federation of Labor has issued a call for the annual convention, which will be held in Hannibal, beginning Monday, September 14.

SECURE GOOD INCREASE.

Long Island City, N. Y., Aug. 15.—The union of pipe caulkers and lappers of those members are employed by the city have raised wages from $4 to $4.50 a day.

MAKE GOOD INCREASE.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 15.—After a ten days' strike the Fixture Hangers' union has raised wages from $4 to $4.50 a day. Every shop in the city was involved.

PERMANENT ORDER DENIED

Decatur, Ind., Aug. 15.—Striking leather workers, members of the Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods, have scored a victory in the Adams county court, which has dissolved a temporary injunction and placed the costs on the Schafer Saddlery company. These workers have been on strike since last June because of an attempted wage reduction. Failure to reach an amicable settlement resulted in a strike, and the company immediately secured a writ of injunction vigorously importuned to cease work that the company secured a temporary injunction, pending a motion for a permanent order. The court refused the latter and dissolved the temporary order, after the strikers had entered a general denial, which the court held, "put upon the plaintiff the burden of proving each and every material allegation contained in its complaint, by a fair preponderance of the evidence."

The court further held: "The law having granted workmen the right to strike and the employer the right to refuse to employ, grant them, also, the use of those means and agencies not inconsistent with the rights of others that may be necessary to make the strike effective. This necessarily gives the right to persuade, entreat by argument, persuasion and such favors and accommodations as they have within their power."

In answer to the company's claims that the strikers were "frightening and intimidating their present employes," the court said: "It may be that the defendants, in their zeal in the cause and desire to secure to their strike were not as courteous to the new employes as they should have been, but these are not one of the things for which an injunction should be granted. If what the defendants did frightened the plaintiff's employes, they certainly would not have gone to the lodge room of the defendants."

Trades unionists say that it is the first case of this kind ever tried in Adams county, and the outcome is pleasing to them.

TO PROBE PRIVATE FUNDS.

Washington, Aug. 15.—On resolution of Senator Chamberlain, the Senate has authorized an investigation of the operations of the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation, so far as the government is concerned. The resolution calls on the various cabinet officials to furnish the Senate the following information:

"The relation, if any, of these organizations to the work of their respective departments, a statement showing the names and positions of all employes, if any, of the departments whose salaries are paid in whole or in part with Rockefeller or Carnegie funds, the names and positions of all administrative officers, if any, of the department who are in any way connected with these institutions, and the salaries, if any, received by them out of these private funds. A short time ago a similar request was made in the Department of Agriculture.

DEFINE THE ISSUE.

San Francisco, Aug. 15.—In a circular to California unionists on the Stockton lockout, the State Federation of Labor makes the point clear when it says: "The issue is not the 'closed shop vs. the open shop,' but the 'union shop vs. the non-union shop.'"

The California unionists have refused to be trapped by the "open shop" term. The five-cent assessment levied on unionists throughout the State is being collected through the State Federation of Labor and the State Building Trades Council. Many international unions have representatives in the State, and the assistance offered and the activity of California organized workers has surprised those who would destroy the Stockton trade union movement.

STILL PLEADING FOR DELAY.

New York, Aug. 15.—The Merchants' association of this city has announced that it has telegraphed Senators in Washington urging that, in view of business uncertainties, brought about by the European war, the anti-trust legislation be postponed. The association says it takes this position "irrespective of the merits of pending bills," and then declares these bills "might precipitate a crisis so serious as to constitute a national calamity." The association is calling on similar organizations throughout the country to join it in its mournful chant.

REDUCE FREIGHT RATES.

San Francisco, Aug. 15.—Several steamship companies have made wholesale reductions in freight rates between San Francisco and the east, to take effect on the opening of the Panama canal. In some instances the rates are lower than the rates from Chicago to New York, a distance approximating 1,000 miles. Canned goods, per 100 pounds, are reduced from 45 to 30 cents; dried fruit, from 50 to 40 cents, beans, from 60 to 35 cents, and other commodities are proportionately affected.

GOOD REPORTS FROM MOLDERS.

Kalamazoo, Mich. Aug. 15.—Good reports predominated at the Iron Molders' Conference Board of Lower Michigan and Indiana, which was attended by International President Valentine. The best gains reported were from Toledo, where molders' wages have been increased from $3.50 per day of nine hours, and core-makers from $3.75 to $3.90. The delegates reported that trade throughout the district was improving.

STRIKE OF TAILORS.

Los Angeles, Aug. 15.—Members of the Ladies' Tailors union, employed by W. A. Hackel & Co., are on strike to enforce wage and other working conditions agreed to by other establishments in the same industry. Mr. Hackel notified the strikers that "my shop is my business, and would not be dictated to."

MANY JOIN NEW UNION.

Boston, Aug. 15.—The Office Building Cleaners union reports a big increase in membership as the result of an organizing campaign. It is claimed that the average wage will be increased from $15 to $18 a week, and many of the office cleaners are widows who are obliged to support families on this amount.

NEW LABOR DAY IDEA.

Wilmington, Del. Aug. 15.—By a vote of the unions, organized labor in this city, together with the business men, will parade jointly on Labor Day. President Scott, of the Central Labor union, will be grand marshal.

IRON WORKERS WINNING.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 15.—Inside iron workers are winning their strike for a nine-hour day and wage increases. Several firms have agreed to these demands. About 100 men were originally involved.

REASONS WHY ORGANIZATIONS OF WORKERS ARE NOT TRUSTS; LABOR DEMANDS THAT INJUNCTION PRACTICES BE CHANGED

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN NEW YORK WORLD.

It is impossible to establish a "labor trust" among free men, for labor power is part of the living workers and has material existence only in the products resulting from the application of that labor. Justice to the workers requires that the inherent differences between these two kinds of organizations be recognized in legislative classifications.

The principle underlying Section 7 of the Clayton Anti-Trust bill recognizes this distinction. It discriminates between the miner and the coal that he mines, the engineer and the throttle that he pulls, the factory employee and the machine that he operates, the baker and the bread he bakes.

But should the baker and the candle maker engage in the production of loaves of bread and candles and try to manipulate the prices of these products to secure unreasonable profits, then their activities would come under the provisions of the Sherman Anti-trust law. However, so long as they control only themselves and their labor power, while undissolubly bound up with life itself, they form no trust and do not interfere with interstate commerce.

Under laws applying to free people, withholding of labor is not a patronage of conspiracy constitutes illegal acts. I can conceive of no dissent from this fundamental truth, that a man's labor power and his patronage are part of himself and cannot be coerced directly by manipulators of money, or indirectly by means of alties without making him a slave. All relations between employers and employes must be construed in accordance with this fundamental truth if freedom is to obtain.

Under present conditions of combinations and concentration of the employing interests industrial freedom is impossible without organization. Where freedom does not exist in the shop it is barred from the lives of those who work in the shop. Wherever unfreedom gains a foothold a deadly influence begins undermining the freedom at large.

Only organization can secure to the workers an opportunity to have a voice in determining wages and conditions under which they work. Organization gives the right of choice. Choice is freedom.

All increases in wages, all betterment in working conditions, regulations for the greater welfare of those who work, has all been forced from employers by the organized efforts of the workers. All these gains that mean so much for the conservation and advancement of the nation have resulted primarily or indirectly from the efforts of the organized workers. Organizations protect and benefit the unorganized also.

Imagine, if you can, what would be the fate of the workers if the Sherman Anti-Trust law as interpreted by the courts were fully enforced and labor organizations were dissolved and outlawed. Workers would be helpless before the conscienceless greed of exploiting employers, the impotent victims of predatory power. Workers would become the cheapest factor in production, of infinitely less value than the things they produce.

Through organization the workers insist that human life shall be valued more highly than things; they insist that personal rights are of greater consequence than rights attaching to property.

By abuse of the injunction process and by perversion and misinterpretation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law organizations of workers have been forbidden to strike, to disuse or publish facts concerning conditions of work, to pay strike benefits to striking members, to persuade others to join the cause of the strikers. To prevent such injustices and outrages the rights of free men there was incorporated in H. R. 15657, sections 15-23, what constitutes Labor's Bill of Rights.

These sections provide regulations for the issuance of injunctions and restrict the scope of the injunctive process.

The right to withhold labor power or to withhold patronage has been denied on the ground that it interfered with the employer's property rights. But an employer can have no property rights in the patronage of free man. Patronage implies voluntary choice between sellers and buyers. The purchaser and withdrawn at his pleasure. If this patronage is a personal matter, a personal right, how can its withdrawal constitute an unlawful act? The dealer thereby may be aggrieved and may suffer loss, but he cannot claim a legal right to the patronage of any man.

Free men have the right to bestow or withhold their labor and their patronage whenever or wherever they may wish. To gainsay this right is to deny freedom.

Labor power and patronage are what make the workman effective and forceful—they constitute his principal protection and means of self-expression. They cannot be separated from the individual's freedom, the precious birthright of a man free to be himself and to possess his own soul.

Not only must the theoretical right to bestow or withhold labor power and patronage be maintained, but this must be given reality and effectiveness by permitting men to pursue legitimate courses of action in exercising this right. If the end is lawful and worthy, then the moral means to attain that end must also be recognized as legal and necessary.

START WAR ON CHILD LABOR

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Aug. 15.—Children and child labor will be given much attention by the seventh biennial convention of America, which meets in this city August 17, 18, and 19.

Strong opposition is developing against child insurance in any form.

Many delegates favor more attention being given the child, which will be aided by the passage of "mothers' compensation, children's bureau, and the development of a strong anti-child labor sentiment in the various states.

In his appeal for action on this subject, President Evans says:

"Two million children sweat their weary bodies to and from American mills and factories and sweatshops—the nation's future is undermined in their bodies, pain in their hearts, dullness in their brains. Their faces are pallid, their eyes lack luster. The bloom on their cheeks has been stolen by their masters to color the wine they distill from their fears. The sparkle of their eyes has been crystallized into diamonds that blaze and flash. Do you hear these children weeping? Do you hear them calling? There were five and one-half million children last year who did not attend school. One-half of the children who went to school did not attend regularly. Ninety-three of every hundred who go to school never get beyond the elementary or lower grades. Only seven out of every hundred go to high school. Millions who do not attend school do not learn enough of their country's institutions to fit them for intelligent citizenship."

LOSING THEIR GRIP.

Los Angeles, Aug. 15.—Union haters in this city are losing their grip, and the steady advance of the organized movement is being noticed by those who, a few months ago, were preaching the end of trade unionism in this vicinity. In the past several weeks three notable victories have been won. The garment workers scored in their strike against S. P. A. Newmark company after a seventeen months' contest. The Ladies' Tailors union has secured the eight-hour day in a large establishment. The Boot and Shoe Workers union won an important strike.

During the past five months the Barbers' union has signed over forty one hundred contracts and won several strikes.

COOKS AND WAITERS GAIN.

Pueblo, Aug. 15.—More than two-thirds of the hotels and restaurants in this city have agreed to the new scale of the cooks and waiters on the same wage basis. Men workers shall labor ten hours, and women workers eight hours a day.

Waiters employed steadily will receive $10 a week and extra waiters. Extra waiters will be paid $2 a shift and waitresses $1.50. In first-class houses male head cooks will receive $20 a week; female head cooks $14. Second and night cooks will receive $16 and $12 for male and female respectively. In second-class houses male head cooks will receive $15 and female head cooks $13.

CARPENTERS WIN STRIKE.

Montreal, Aug. 15.—Carpenters in this city have won their strike and secured a three-years' contract, which gives them an increase of 2½ cents an hour, making the old rate 45 cents. A compromise was effected on the question of hours, the men wanted an eight-hour day, but the contractors claimed that Montreal's rigorous winter made it necessary for work in the summer. It was finally agreed that the hours should be nine in summer and eight in winter. The contractors agree not to give work to any subcontractor who does not employ union men at the standard wage rate.

MACHINISTS ON STRIKE.

Detroit, Aug. 15.—Machinists employed in several large overall factories in this city are on strike. It is claimed the Garment Workers union has indicated to their employers that they will not work with nonunion machinists. The strikers are demanding a higher wage rate.

FULL TIME AT ALTOONA

Altoona, Pa., Aug. 15.—Orders have been issued by the Pennsylvania railroad to put all shops in this city on full time. This order affects about 12,000 men.

TEXTILE WORKERS ASK AID

Fall River, Mass., Aug. 15.—Officers of the United Textile Workers of America have issued an appeal for funds for the benefit of the Fulton Bag and Cotton company's striking workers at Atlanta, Ga. The strike of these workers, employed under the most demoralizing conditions, organized a union, but the discriminating tactics of the company drove them on strike. The textile officials say:

"It is impossible to describe the intense poverty that prevails among the lint-heated workers in the Southern cotton mills, working in the company's mill, dealing at the company's store, dwelling in the company's shacks." It is charged that children are employed in weaving for as low as 22 cents a week. The workers are demanding, among other things, the abolishment of the "stretch-out" system, a feature of their strike which appeal to every right-thinking citizen. A commissary has been established to provide for the bare necessities of the 2,000 men, women and children involved in the strike. The textile workers are asking that contributions be forwarded to Secretary Albert Hibbert, Box 745, Fall River, Mass., for the purpose of feeding these workers in their battle for a living wage, sanitary shop conditions, and the right of their little ones to live and play.

BREAK OPERATORS' RANKS.

Massillon, Ohio, Aug. 15.—The Pocock Coal Company operates a number of mines in session with their mine employes, and yielded to the demands of the miners for 71.25 cents a ton for pick mining on the run-of-mine basis, and signed a scale for two years, ending a strike which has been in progress since early spring. The action of the Pocock company establishes a scale which the other operators must pay if they desire to operate.

The break came at the close of the four days' conference of miners and operators. Unable to reach an agreement they had adjourned when the miners announced that they would accept a standard the scale for pick mining on the run-of-mine basis could resume. The Pocock company alone accepted the proposition.

CARPENTERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Cincinnati, Aug. 15.—After a three months' struggle the carpenters' strike has been settled, the men securing higher wages and better working conditions. Eight hours shall constitute a day's work, and the minimum wage shall be 35 cents an hour from May 1, 1914, to October 30, 1915, and 40 cents an hour from November 1, 1915, to April 30, 1917, with higher grade of mechanics to receive a higher wage scale as agreed upon between the employer and the employe. The agreement is to be for a period of three years, and provides for a board to settle the workers and their employers fail to settle any difference that may arise.

A WAR POEM.

Boston, Aug. 15.—"If" is the title of a war poem by Batchelor-mew F. Griffen, a newspaper man of this city. The poem is attracting general attention because of the vivid portrayal of the shadows of war and the terrible destruction, together with the final end that benefits but few. The poem follows:

IF!

Suppose 'twere done!
The lanyard pulled on every shotted gun;
Into the charge death-clutch sent
Each disciplined armament,
To grapple there
On land, on sea and man, on sea and air,
Suppose at last 'twere come—
Now, while each bourse and shop and mill is dumb,
And arsenals and dockyards hum—
Now's complete, supreme,
That vast, Satanic dream!—

Each field were trampled, soaked,
Each stream dyed, choked,
Each leaguered city and blockaded port
Made famine's sport;
The empty workhouse
Made reeling dreadnought's grave,
Cathedral, castle, gallery, smoking fell
'Neath bomb and shell;
In deathlike trance
Lay industry, finance;
Two thousand years'
Bequest, achievement, saving, disappears
In blood and tears,
In widowed woe
That cot and palace equal know,
In civilization's suicide—
What saved thereby, what satisfied?
For justice, freedom, right, what wrought?
Naught!—

Save, after the great cataclysm, perhap
On the world's shaken map
New lines, more near or far,
Binding to king or czar
In festering hate
Some newly vassaled state;
And passion, lust, and pride,
Unslain and slain;
And just a trace
Of lingering smile on Satan's face!

TRACE PELLAGRA TO MILLS

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 15.—"It has heretofore been called by the laity 'corn bread disease,' but I think it should be called 'mill disease,'" is the verdict of Dr. W. V. Garrett, who has been investigating the dreaded disease known as pellagra in and around this city.

The report says there is a cause for all this pellagra, and Dr. Garrett declares it is caused by the lowered vitality due to overwork and the insanitary condition in which the workers are forced to live. He states that during the year he has investigated forty cases of pellagra in the vicinity of the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills, whose textile workers are now on strike for decent working conditions, increased wages and the abolishment of child labor.

Dr. Garrett also says:

"In any cotton mill work, as carried on by some mills in the south, where women and helpless children are driven to a machine by starvation, lashed to it, forced to remain there day after day, week after week, until every vestige of energy—both mental and physical—and every drop of blood is spun out of them and spewed into bolts, leaving the unfortunate individual an easy prey to pellagra, tuberculosis and all other diseases, leaving them a burden to themselves, a curse to society and a charge to charity, if then by chance miss the chaingang or the insane asylum.

"From the investigation I have made, I feel safe to say that at least 75 per cent of all cases of pellagra existing in Georgia today are traceable to the mill districts."

CLAIMS OF ANTIS REFUTED

Stockton, Cal., Aug. 15.—In a page advertisement the local press, the Merchants, Manufacturers and Employers' association of this city gives an insight into its mode of reasoning for locking out union workers. The association, of course, declares for the "open shop," which it defines as follows:

"We understand the 'open shop' to mean the elimination of the use of the union label, the union stamp, and display cards from our places of business and the prohibition and the elimination of signed or other agreements between our members and labor organizations."

While the association declines to treat with its employes in a collective capacity, it gives notice, as follows, that only organized action will be permitted among Stockton's employers:

"Hours and wages. Resolved, That the members of the Merchants, Manufacturers and Employers' Association of Stockton, Cal., are hereby pledged to the maintenance of the present schedule of hours and wages. Any member engaging in working hours and wages are to be submitted to a committee of the association, and no individual member of the association shall, in any case, lower any wage or increase the hours of employment in conflict with the present standard of hours and wages, without the investigation of said committee and consent of the committee. The penalty of the violation of this will be the expulsion from the membership and benefits of the association and its protection of the association."

Unionists are attacking this position of the employers from two standpoints. First, they are making public letters sent to workmen outside the city in which Stockton employers offer employment at wages below the union rates. The locked-out men who refuse to work unless they get the present standard of wages, hours, and conditions, which the employers are pledged to maintain through a combination of their own, and who would now deny their workers any word in the affair.

SEATTLE UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Seattle, Aug. 15.—Unionists in this city have perfected plans for a vigorous "union forward" movement. A committee to map out the program made the following recommendations, which were accepted:

"That an executive committee of ten be elected to have general supervision of the work; that a finance committee of five be appointed to take charge of receipts and expenditures, that a committee of five be named to obtain publicity for meetings and rallies; that a committee of five be chosen to conduct women's work; both within and without the movement and to enlist the services of speakers and lecturers; that a committee of five be selected to collect statistics and to divide the city into precincts; that a committee be appointed to address addresses and occupations of all ununionized wage-earners; that a committee of five be appointed to organize labor sentiment among all such wage-earners."

CAN SUE THIRD PARTIES.

New York, Aug. 15.—The workmen's compensation commission has ruled that injured persons may sue third parties and the courts decide they have recourse to the commission for an award against their own employer or the insurance company carrying the liability. James Babb, employe of a dry dock in Brooklyn, complained that he was receiving for his son an employe of the Standard Oil company had jumped upon, was permitted to sue the latter after the commission, in referring to a medical examination by the commission's physician to ascertain the extent of the injury.

FAVOR LITERACY TEST.

Baltimore Md., Aug. 15.—By a vote of 125 to 18 1-2, the convention of the Maryland State District of Columbia Federation of Labor indorsed the literacy test section of the immigration bill, now before the United States Senate. The convention declared, among other things, in favor of aiding the movement to organize cotton longshoremen, against prison contract labor and to more fully observe Labor Day. The next convention will be held in this convention. An appropriation was made to defray expenses in organizing women workers.

MAKE PLEA FOR PEACE.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 15.—At the suggestion of former Governor Stokes, 5,000 citizens assembled in the state house auditorium sent messages to the rulers of Europe, protesting against the present war and urging their influence for peace because of the terrifying results, which the messages declare, "include the suffering of thousands of women and children, murdered fathers and brothers and husbands, the rivers of blood, fresh fields of hatred and black seas of despair."

"COMPANY MEN" SCORED.

Baltimore, Aug. 15.—Trade unionists are making protests at the methods employed by "company men" and plug uglies in the pay of the local street car company, which would block organization of its employes. Organizer Shea, of the Amalgamated Street Railway Employes, and of L. Organizer Eichelberger, has charge of this movement, which promises to be successful, despite company opposition.

TO LICENSE OPERATORS.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 15.—The common council has framed an ordinance providing for the examination and licensing of picture machine operators. No license shall be issued to persons under eighteen years of age. The examination shall be conducted by city officials. A fee of $2 shall be charged for each of the first and second class, and for operators of the third class no fee shall be charged. For renewals, the fee shall be $1.

MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE.

Waco, Tex., Aug. 15.—Machinists employed by the Waco Machinery and Supply Co., and the Brazos Rolling Mill Machine Works have won their strike, and both plants are now strictly union shops. Eleven shops in the machinists' trade are working ten hours a day for 21-2 cents an hour. They have secured a nine hour day at 40 cents an hour.

SIGN ONE-YEAR SCALE.

Washington, Aug. 15.—Carpenters and the Builders' League have signed a one-years' agreement which calls for 45 cents an hour. The contractors promise that if conditions are anywhere near normal while, the scale will be 40 cents an hour next year.

PENSIONS FOR CITY EMPLOYES.

Dublin, Aug. 15.—Municipal employes are discussing an old age pension system, and are gathering data for use in their campaign to interest the city council.

CLERGYMAN DEFENDS LABOR

Stockton, Cal., Aug. 15.—Employers have not the right to indiscriminately discharge workmen on the theory that "they have the right to run their own business," is the thought expressed by Rev. J. W. Byrd, pastor of the Grace M. E. Church, South, in a vigorous sermon on the present lockout of union workmen, in which the boycott was defended and employers were urged to arbitrate.

The clergyman said, in part:

"It would appear to have the identical coloring of justice itself that a man should have the right to discharge any man he pleases and that the union has no interest of his business without reference of the act to any one or without even the slightest consideration as to whether or not there might be involved circumstances.

"Let us speak to this argument just a minute. As a matter of fact such an attitude as is here contended for as a right is wholly at variance with all that we know in our experience as social beings. A man may have the money in his pocket—good, hard-earned, honest money—and he may have a lot already paid for, but he cannot simply do as he pile and get a permit before he is allowed to erect his own building with his own money and material. If this limitation happens to be in a certain section of the city his building must conform up to certain requirements before it is permitted to be erected at all. A man owns his home and the welfare of it is a public thoroughfare—everybody's property—yet that man must drive his own automobile on the left side of the road only on a certain side of it. He must not leave that machine of his standing on the public highway distance of a fire hydrant of his. A man has his children, and they live in his house, yet not a strong hand of the people invade that home and prescribes certain limits within which those children must play. The children in his own home must move. A man owns his own horse, and yet that horse is not to be driven upon the walk, but at liberty to treat that horse just as most may be inclined.

"These restraints are all arbitrary, of course. There is no justification for their existence, save in the fact that unless we should have some organization formed to break down these restraints against the freedom and exercise of God-given right to act without regard to another's good. Or, to speak in human society, out of a long and bitter struggle, writing of sacred history, has found out that this is best. So I say that a man's right to do what he will with his own only extends to the point where another's good would be jeopardized by the further exercise of that right. God's mandate to the sea, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no farther,' is equally applicable to the movements in human society."

SEAMEN ARE VIGILANT.

Chicago, Aug. 15.—The Lake Seamen's union continues its fight against the so-called "welfare plan" of the Lake Carriers' association and the discriminating tactics of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie. Lakes who are members of that organization. Further complaints, Victor Olander, the union's secretary, has issued the following notice:

"Under no circumstances himself discriminated against, either directly or indirectly, because of his membership in the Seamen's union, or because of his intention or desire to join the union, by any employee of any of the lake carriers' association or any of its allied companies is requested to at once report the facts in either case to Secretary Olander, who should be made, giving detailed information of what has occurred, full names, addresses and dates. Action will be taken. This will apply to acts of discrimination against members of the Seamen's union, or because of rules of the so-called 'welfare plan' by any agent or representative of the Lake Carriers' association or any of its allied concerns, including the masters and officers of the ships.

INCREASE MEMBERSHIP.

Philadelphia, Aug. 15.—The "union forward" movement in this city is bringing large numbers of workers under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. At an open meeting of the Metal Polishers union, nearly 100 new members were taken in. The carpenters, bricklayers and other crafts report immense gains. The textile workers are also on the march, and the enthusiasm, as is also the teamsters. A new union of riggers, with 400 members, has been organized and chartered by the Structural Iron Workers.

DOES UNIONISM PAY?

Detroit, Aug. 15.—"Does unionism pay?" is answered by the report of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, which was made by Secretary-Treasurer Howell at the present year, our records show wage increases to 19,300 members of fifty-four locations, which mean $1,000,000 a year. There were paid 211 death and disability benefits in the sum of $262,858."

ONLY FOR COMPENSATION.

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 15.—The State Supreme court has denied the application for benefits under the State compensation law, made by Mrs. Augustus Adams, of Detroit, whose husband died of lead poisoning, which disease he contracted while employed by the Detroit Smelting Co. It was held that where employes become ill because of some occupational disease they have not entitled to compensation under the present law.

BIG BOOST TO STATE BRANCH.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 15.—The executive council of the United Mine Workers of America, has voted to instruct all local unions under the district operating agreement to join the state branch. This means that 250 new unions will join the West Virginia state federation. Labor if the instructions are followed out, which will undoubtedly be the case.

VOTES IN FAVOR OF M. O.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 15.—By a vote of 15,767 to 5,460 this city declared in favor of the municipal ownership proposition, which for the purpose of taking over the local street car company's railway and light plant. The fight was a hard one, and spirited one, and the trade union movement led the fight for municipal ownership.

AGREE TO ARBITRATE.

Sacramento, Aug. 15.—The long-drawn out dispute between the Municipal band and the musicians' union has at last been thrown by the acceptance of the owning syndicate to arbitrate the question.

DON'T FAVOR "WAR" BONDS.

Denver, Aug. 15.—The State auditing board is having trouble disposing of the recent issue of war bonds issued by the legislature. Large holders who hold claims against the State,